

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

Steve Bullock  
GOVERNOR



Angela McLean  
LT. GOVERNOR

November 19, 2015

Doyle Simons, CEO  
Weyerhaeuser Corporation  
PO Box 9777  
Federal Way, WA 98063-9777

Dear Mr. Simons:

I read with interest about your pending investment in Montana. I am sure that our business-friendly tax climate, talented and hardworking workforce, and our unparalleled quality of life factored into your decision to merge with Plum Creek. Montana combines outstanding economic opportunity with a strong history of outdoor heritage and folks who like to both work hard and play hard.

Our timber industry is an important part of our economy, and I look forward to working with you to help the wood products industry grow. Plum Creek has provided good paying, stable jobs for Montana and it has acted as a good neighbor, providing free access to hunt, fish and hike on its private timberlands.

I am writing to ask for your assurance that operations in Montana will not be substantially impacted by this merger and that the access that Montanans have enjoyed for years will not be gated off.

My administration has worked hard to promote active forest management in Montana, across all land ownerships, with considerable success. Our state lands have consistently provided volume for our mills, while meeting environmental safeguards. Under our Forests and Focus Initiative, we have put state resources to work, in terms of money and staff, to boost forest management on private and federal lands. We've also invested \$1 million of state funds in 14 Forest Service projects that will help restore over 200,000 acres, improve recreation opportunities, and produce nearly 50 million board feet of timber when fully implemented—and we are considering further investment. This level of effort reflects my commitment to Montana's wood products industry, and I've made this commitment in significant part recognizing that the jobs provided by the industry are good-paying jobs for Montana families.

I want your assurances that this effort on my part is well-placed, and that your operations will remain consistent with past practices as a result of this corporate merger.

Similarly, working to improve relations between hunters and anglers and private land owners is an ongoing challenge in Montana, and unfortunately conflicts between private landowners and the public have become a regular topic in the news. Access to Montana's public wildlife is a fundamental part of Montana's cherished hunting and fishing heritage and traditions. More than ever, it is also a vital wildlife management tool for the State.

When Plum Creek acquired its land base from Champion International in 1993, it wisely chose to continue Champion's open access policy. Since then, and when it comes to managing its lands for public access, Plum Creek has been an excellent neighbor and active partner, allowing free access to its lands under management by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

In both cases, Champion and Plum Creek saw the benefit of working with the State of Montana to ensure that the public would have open and free access. I believe that those companies both recognized that maintaining such a policy resulted in significant good will with the general public. In addition, and recognizing the often interspersed and interdependent location of those lands, those companies recognized that such an approach greatly facilitated a productive working relationship with adjacent land owners, including the State.

I am very concerned that Weyerhaeuser may not fully appreciate Montana's culture around this issue. It is my understanding that the company charges a fee for access to its lands in Oregon and Washington. That approach will not be well-received in Montana.

I ask that you move quickly to alleviate public concerns over this merger and immediately announce the company's intention to continue the free and open access policies adopted by your predecessors.

Not only will it be a good business decision, it will begin a productive, long term relationship with Montana's citizens. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



STEVE BULLOCK  
Governor

cc: Rick Holley, CEO, Plum Creek